



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FULL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Claudia Puig convened the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees at 10:16 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, via Zoom.

General Counsel Carlos B. Castillo conducted roll call of the Florida International University Board of Trustees and verified a quorum. Present were Claudia Puig, *Board Chair*; Leonard Boord; Dean C. Colson; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.; Donna J. Hrinak; Natasha Lowell; Joerg Reinhold; Sabrina L. Rosell; and Roger Tovar.

Board Vice Chair Jose J. Armas and Trustees Cesar L. Alvarez, T. Gene Prescott, and Marc D. Sarnoff were excused.

Chair Puig welcomed all Trustees and University faculty and staff to the meeting. She explained that the Board's April 21, 2020 meetings schedule was modified in order to allow the Board to focus on action items and time-sensitive matters. She pointed out that while the Governance Committee met earlier in the day, the Athletics and External Relations Committee Meetings, originally scheduled for April 21, 2020 were cancelled. She indicated that two action items on the Full Board agenda, BT1 and BT2, were not previously reviewed by a Committee, adding that the Board's Bylaws, namely, Section 6.9, provide that the Board Chair may, in consultation with the Corporate Secretary, allow an item to be presented to the Full Board without prior consideration by a Board committee when circumstances warrant.

Chair Puig commented on Trustee Committee assignments moving forward. She announced that Trustee Roger Tovar would be serving as the Chair of the Athletics Committee, that Trustee Donna J. Hrinak will be serving as a member of the Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee and the External Relations Committee, and that Trustee Gene Prescott will be serving as the Vice Chair of the Athletics Committee and as a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

On behalf of the FIU Board of Trustees, Chair Puig extended her gratitude to Student Trustee and Student Government President for the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Sabrina L. Rosell for her leadership and dedication to the Board, to the University, and to the students. Trustee Rosell recognized the Board's commitment and dedication to the University and the students it serves and commended the leadership of University President Mark B. Rosenberg. She commented on how service on the Board and within student government have helped to empower and propel her

towards future success.

2. Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

3. Foundation Report

Senior Vice President of University Advancement Howard R. Lipman presented the Foundation Report, reporting that the Next Horizon Campaign has raised \$574M to-date towards the \$750M goal. He described FIU Strong fundraising efforts aimed at helping those impacted by the pandemic, noting that \$1.6M has been raised to-date. In terms of alumni engagement, he indicated that the FIU Alumni Association issued a promise statement to alumni, *Deeply Connected*, launched Panthers Connect, a one-stop-shop for alumni resources, and surveyed the University's alumni base. Sr. VP Lipman indicated that, as of March 31, 2020, the Foundation's total investment portfolio totaled approximately \$274.2M with (8.1%) in total managed assets.

4. President's Report

President Rosenberg indicated that on January 27, 2020, the first COVID-19-related communication was disseminated to the University community, that, at its February 26, 2020 meetings, the Board engaged in a discussion on potential impacts and academic continuity of operations, and that on March 11, 2020, Florida's State University System (SUS) instructed universities to make plans to transition to remote learning. He commented on Florida's Safer-at-Home order that is in effect and reported on the number of COVID-19 positive cases at the national, state, and local level. He pointed out that since March, there has been a daily Emergency Operations Center (EOC) conference call and that in an abundance of caution, the Wolfsonian-FIU and the Academic Health Center 4 building were decontaminated by an outside vendor when individuals who had tested positive for COVID-19 had been in each building. President Rosenberg stated that FIU began printing protective face shields on March 28, 2020 and highlighted recently fulfilled orders. He reported that FIU has turned over 28 ventilators to the FL Department of Emergency Management from FIU's response and training cache and that on April 8, 2020 FIU opened and has been operating a drive thru COVID-19 testing site in collaboration with Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Health and the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition. He commended the work of Asst. Director of Emergency Management Bridget A. Pelaez and Vice President of Operations and Safety and Chief of Staff Javier I. Marques.

President Rosenberg commented on the University's academic continuity efforts, namely, the establishment of the Remote Teach Ready Badge, that all classes will continue online or in remote platforms for the Summer A and C semesters, and that decisions on the modality of the Summer B semester are forthcoming. In terms of housing and residential life, he pointed out that there are 454 student residents as of April 20, 2020 and that as the current semester ends, student residents have started the process of moving out. He indicated that Spring 2020 Commencement is being held virtually on May 8, 2020, adding that students will have the option to walk in future ceremony.

President Rosenberg explained that the University implemented a sustainable remote work model, highlighting a number of initiatives focused on health and well-being and professional development while working from home, and mindfulness meditation, workshops, and support groups. He

explained that as of April 1, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act became effective and that the Division of Human Resources has aligned systems and processes to ensure that COVID-19-related leave is tracked appropriately and that employees are receiving the benefits afforded by the Act. He pointed out that the University is proposing to implement a virtual appreciation component that would allow for the timely recognition of service recipients, nominees, and retirees.

In terms of fiscal impact, President Rosenberg pointed out that Governor Ron DeSantis has indicated that he will veto projects in the 2020-21 budget to conserve resources. President Rosenberg commented on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief funds, noting that Florida will receive \$792M and that FIU will receive \$38.3M, divided as follows: \$19.15M emergency financial aid grant directly to students and \$19.15M for institutional support funds as part of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. He described University actions to-date, namely, the immediate pause on all vacant positions, with President, Provost, and CFO reviewing all requests to fill critically needed positions, filling critically needed positions with qualified internal staff whenever possible, all non-contractual or non-essential expenses, including travel, are being held, and that all units are developing 2.5% reduction plans that could be implemented July 1, if required, although actual reductions will be developed based upon strategic University priorities.

President Rosenberg commented on Spring and Summer semester expense and revenue adjustments and presented fiscal impact scenarios utilizing one percent reduction in state funding, tuition and fees, and auxiliary revenues while accounting for additional costs associated with required new personal protection equipment and/or supplies. He delineated new and continuing student enrollments for the summer and fall terms and described University initiatives to address budget issues, namely, closely monitoring enrollments, revenues and expenses, drawing upon existing carryforward 7% statutory reserve, if required, with Florida Board of Governors approval, and adjusting expenditure plans based upon strategic priorities and critical needs.

President Rosenberg commented on the results of the social media survey aimed at understanding how the audience is responding to University COVID-19 messaging, adding that responses align in feeling supported by the University in remote learning and working, that sixty percent of all responses came through Instagram Stories, and that despite the University's messaging, students still have many basic questions unanswered. In terms of the Office of Research and Economic Development and the University Graduate School, President Rosenberg pointed out that critical research operations remain in laboratories, that all field operations and face-to-face human subject research are on hold, and that plans are currently being developed for a phased return to laboratory and field research. He indicated that research awards and proposals continue with positive trends and that there have been 55 remote dissertation defenses.

President Rosenberg pointed out that the Florida Small Business Development Center at FIU and the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program have approved/closed 103 loans totaling \$4,430,000 in Miami-Dade and Monroe County and that FIUstrong has awarded grants to 239 students and to-date, has raised \$987,393. He reported that the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board has granted accreditation to the professional MLA degree at FIU. He

highlighted the imaging radar fabrication and described virtual University tours.

5. Action Items

G1. Florida International University Annual Accountability Plan, 2020

Board Chair Puig noted that the Governance Committee met earlier in the day and conducted a comprehensive review of FIU's 2020 Annual Accountability Plan.

Trustee Roger Tovar voiced his concern relating to the reduction in the proposed goal for the endowment size metric and requested that the Board revisit that topic at a future Board meeting. Sr. VP Lipman explained that giving can be directed towards capital, operations, and/or endowment and described recent national trends where philanthropic interests are increasingly directed towards operations.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees approve Florida International University's Annual Accountability Plan as provided in the Board materials and delegate authority to the University President to perform finish editing as needed and to amend consistent with comments received from the Board of Governors.

G2. President's Management Review

Board Chair Puig explained that the Governance Committee also met to undertake the assessment of President Rosenberg's accomplishments for the 2018-19 academic year relative to the Board-approved goals and his overall performance. On behalf of the Committee, Board Chair Puig presented the recommended performance rating for Board consideration.

A motion was made and unanimously passed by the FIU Board of Trustees granting a "Superior" performance rating to President Mark B. Rosenberg for his leadership of Florida International University during the 2018-19 academic year.

G3. University and President's Performance Goals, 2020-21

Board Chair Puig noted that President Rosenberg submitted a list of goals to be considered for his 2020-21 management review. She stated that the goals were taken directly from the University's Accountability Plan.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees adopt the University and President's Performance Goals for the 2020-21 academic year as included in the Board materials.

BT1. Amendment to the 2019-2020 Fixed Capital Outlay and Carryforward Budgets

Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth A. Jessell presented the Amendment to the 2019-2020 Fixed Capital Outlay and Carryforward Budgets for the Board's review. He explained that based upon the initial guidance received from the U.S. Department of Education Office of the Secretary of Education, the University is planning on using part of the \$19,150,979 in Institutional Support Funding to be allocated to FIU as part of the CARES Act to fund the housing and meal plan refunds. He pointed out that in the event that Institutional Support Funding cannot be utilized for housing and meal plan refunds, the University is requesting to use

carryforward funding, adding that the SUS has provided guidance on housing and dining refunds, including the use of university carryforward funds to provide these refunds. He pointed out that carryforward funds will only be used in the event housing and meal plan refunds may not be made by CARES funding and that if carryforward funds are utilized, this will be reported back to the Board at its June 16, 2020 meeting.

Trustee Tovar commented that the lack of students on FIU campuses, given the University's current status of remote instruction, provides an opportunity to proceed with certain projects, namely, the first phase of the Engineering Center restroom renovations.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees amend the 2019-20 Florida International University Fixed Capital Outlay and Carryforward Budgets in order to pay for student housing and meal plans as a result of COVID-19.

BT2. Authorization to establish a Graduate Medical Education Program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System pursuant to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards

General Counsel Castillo explained that the action item seeks approval of the Board to allow the University to move forward to establish a residency program with the VA Hospital, which would be scheduled to start in July of 2022, pending further approval by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). He pointed out that in order to move forward under said timeline, an application to be designated as a Sponsoring Institution (SI) must be submitted to the ACGME no later than July 10, 2020. General Counsel Castillo indicated that only as an SI can FIU become the employer of residents and that as part of the residency program, a new category of employees, i.e., future residents, will be created. He commented that in connection with the proposed relationship with the VA and the referenced application, University approval to move forward is needed and that with the Board's approval, it is anticipated that further related financial information will be presented to the Board at its June 16, 2020 meeting. He indicated that, at this time, the request is for the Board's approval of the Resolution, subject to the Board's review of financial information in June.

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Robert Sackstein explained that the current request pertains to the authorization to proceed with the application to be designated as an SI in connection with the proposed Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. He explained that to complete the full spectrum of training of competent physicians, medical schools need to add programs in GME. He pointed out that medical school-sponsored GME programs are uniquely equipped with academic strengths that enhance physician training, serve the community through expansion of the pool of superbly trained physicians within the community, and work synergistically with all university faculty to facilitate the needed creation of knowledge to improve health care for all. He commented that because the University lacks its own hospital, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOC) needs seamless partnership with hospital(s) to achieve HWCOC-sponsored GME program(s).

Sr. VP and Dean Sackstein described GME program advantages, namely, the focus on deep

learning, translational research opportunities, bench-to-clinical trials, and clinical observations. He indicated that the Miami-VAHCS would like to partner with FIU to create a visionary internal medicine residency program, with a focus on primary, ambulatory care. He pointed out that the Miami-VAHCS needs to expand their primary care workforce and that the US-VAHCS is providing financial support for new primary care GME programs. He commented that an FIU-VA program provides unique training opportunities and described the timelines for the institutional and internal medicine review committee.

Trustee Board recognized that financial information would be forthcoming in June, but asked Sr. VP and Dean Sackstein to address financials. In response, Sr. VP and Dean Sackstein commented on the benefits to FIU, namely, translational and clinical research opportunities and further explained that the VA, under the partnership, will cover 75% of the costs associated with the resident salaries and that the program can be funded for five years without any changes to HWCOC budgets.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that the FIU Board of Trustees authorize the University to establish a Graduate Medical Education Program at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. *(financial information forthcoming in June)*

6. New Business

President Rosenberg shared an excerpt from the upcoming virtual commencement ceremony.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

With no other business, Board Chair Claudia Puig adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees Full Board on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 11:37 a.m.

Trustee request:

Trustee Roger Tovar voiced his concern relating to the reduction in the proposed goal for the endowment size metric and requested that the Board revisit the topic at a future Board meeting.

Claudia Puig
Chair
FIU Board of Trustees

Mark B. Rosenberg
Corporate Secretary
FIU Board of Trustees